interfere. Whenever they get into trouble, if someone wants to find a way out, they pass a resolution saying, "No, it cannot be wound up'. How do you run it if you cannot wind it up? Some way has to be found. So, I will personally look into this. Probably, this can be a test case, a kind of case from which we could draw lessons for other institutions also.

As regards the PSUs, of course, that is a different matter. This is for co-operatives.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: If you do not interfere, it is okay. Once you have interefered, then why are the posts lying vacant for years?

Reclamation of wasteland in Orissa

*802. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made in Orissa regarding availability of wasteland;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the amount allocated for the reclamation of such wasteland, district-wise;

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete the scheme; and

(e) the area so far reclaimed in Kalahandi district and what is the total amount so far utilised in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL RAM SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No detailed survey has yet been conducted, district-wise for the identification of wastelands for the whole country. However, under the National Wastelands Identification Programme, detailed survey for thirteen districts of Orissa having more than 5 per cent of wastelands has been conducted by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad. The list of these districts alongwith the area of wastelands in each of these districts is given at statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Department of Wastlands development has sanctioned nine projects in Orissa under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project scheme at a total outlay of Rs. 19.02 crores. These projects would be implemented over a period of 3—5 years starting from 1992-93. The details of these projects one given at statement-II. (*See* below).

(e) An area of 4,966 hectares has been developed in Kalahandi District for which Rs. 2.30 crores under Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme has been utilised.

Statement I

S. No.	Districts of Orissa	Area of wastelands in hactares
1.	Balasore	21,842
2.	Bolangir*	1,27,842
3.	Cuttack	76,853
4.	Dhenkanal	1,53,541
5.	Ganjam	4,31,086

1	2	3
6.	Kalahandi*	1,24,147
7.	Keonjhar	1,24,604
8.	Koraput	7,46,795
9.	Mayurbhanj	77,921
10.	Phulbani	1,38,327
11.	Puri	1,75,185
12.	Sambalpur	1,04,023,
13.	Sundargarh	1,14,800
	TOTAL :	24,16,966

*Undivided districts.

Statement II

(Rs. in lakhs)
(Area in Ha.)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Project period	Total project cost	Total area to be covered	Total area covered upto 31-3-95
Integrated wastelands Development projects in Orissa					
1	IWDP in Kalahandi District. (Project-I)	1992-93 to 1996-97	207.13	2826.00	1758.00
2	IWDP in Kalahandi District. (Project-II)	1993-94 to 1996-97	441.53	6672.00	3208.00
3	IWDP in Lamtaput Block of Koraput District. (Project-I)	1993-94 to 1997-98	216.66	2815.00	1371.00
4	IWDP in Laxmipur Block of Koraput District. (Project-II)	1993-94 to 1997-98	49.12	741.00	446.00
5	IWDP in Bolangir District.	1993-94 to 1997-98	437.54	6467.00	N.R.
6	IWDP in Dhankanal District.	1994-95 to 1998-99	45.97	692.00	N.R.
7	IWDP in Malkangiri District. (Project-I)	1992-93 to 1993-94	62.39	1469.00	706.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
8	IWDP in Malkangiri District. (Project-II)	1994-95 to 1997-98	157.78	2187.00	N.R.
9	IWDP in Navrangpur District.	1994-95 to 1998-99	284.26	3539.00	N.R.
	TOTAL .		1902.40	27[illegible]	7489.00

N.R. : Not reported.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Madam, the question is related to wasteland development. The question was whether any survey was conducted to identity the wastelands. The reply is: "No detailed survey has so far been made." Madam, I want to know whether the Government realises that the quantum of wastelands is increasing every year handsomely. The Government is also making very handsome allotments to preserve the land and the quality of land. The Government is always taking effective steps and making handsome allotments to preserve the land. But, Madam, since this Department is under the Ministry of Rural Development, and the funds which are allocated to this Department are spent mostly through the Forest Department, Horticulture Department, Agriculture Department. Soil Conservation Department. These Departments are under the Ministry of Agriculture. Now a days Soil Conservations Department is the most favoured Department of these agencies. So, Madam, I want to know one thing. As regards the infrastructure of the Soil Conservation Department and the maintenance of the district, it is done by the Head of the Department who is a Class-II Officer of the State Government. Under him, some junior engineers and some unskilled labourers are working.

Though them crores of rupees are being spent. ..*(Interruption)* ..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: आप जरा संक्षेप में बोलिए । Will you be a little brief so that he can give an answer to you.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Madam, it is for the first time, after five years, I am getting a chance to seek a supplementary and you are asking me to be brief!

SHRI M. A. BABY: He is asking with retrospective effect.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If it is your maiden supplementary I won't even disturb you.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Therefore, Madam, the handsome allocations which are made through these Departments are spent through junior level officers and mostly the funds are being regulated by the DRDS and the supervision is done by the Collectors. Usually, they are presidents or chairmen of these institutions. Due to the complexity of the work and the business, the Collectors only focus their part-time attention on it—Madam, without any malicious intention I am saying all this—as our Prime Minister is also paying a part-time attention towards this Department. So, Madam, I want to know one thing, whether the Government will consider taking up this matter very seriously and improve the infrastructural works so that effective monitoring and effective implementation is done. Madam, in the Annual Report—I have gone through it — it is stated. "Officers from the National Wasteland Development Board are deputed, time and again to visit IWDP projects." They visited many places. Kalahandi District is also one of them. My question was specifically for Kalahandi District. I will come to

this subsequently, but now I want to know from the hon. Minister.... . (*Interruption*)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even for a maiden question it is too long.

कर्नल राम सिंह : मैं जवाब दे देता हूं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: I want to know what steps the Government will take to improve the infrstructure so that effective implementation is done; whether the Minister thinks that there is a need to make the infrastructure better.

COL. RAM SINGH: First of all, I must say the assumption of the hon. Member that all the schemes are being implemented by the Forest Department is incorrect. They were. It was, perhaps, to some extent correct when the National Wasteland Development Board was under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Since our Prime Minister, seeing the importance of the subject, has created a new Deparment and placed it under the Ministry of Rural Development, most of the schemes are now being run by the DRDA. Some schemes are, of course, being run by the Forest Department and the Soil Conservation Department. Since the creation of the new Department, we have been trying to put more and more stress on the involvelment of NGO's Panchayats, youth clubs and, especially, women's organisations in this task of development of wasteland. As far as the infrastructure is concerned the hon. Member has mentioend about the monitoring and evaluation—we have, of late considerably strengthened the monitoring and evaluation cell. A new cell has been created in the Department to keep a hand on the pulse of the projects, which are going on, and that is taking shape. As far as Kalahandi District to which the hon. Member belongs is concerned, there are two projects which are going on in the district. Normally not more than one project is sanctioned per district. But in this district, being a backward district and being one of the 147 districts identified under the National Wasteland Identification Programme, two projects are going on.

उपसभापति : इस लंबे सवाल का आप पूरा जवाब दे दीजिए ।

Are you satisfied?

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Now I will restrict myself to Kalahandi only. Madam, the hon. Minister said that Kalahandi had the special privilege to have two projects. Unfortunatley, he has taken pains to mention the names of all the blocks in other districts where these projects are being implemented. But he has not taken any interest to mention the blocks where these projects are being implemented in Kalahandi district, particularly when the Kalahandi district has already been bifurcated.

He is giving a statement of the unbifurcated district and he is telling us that Kalahandi has been blessed with two projects. So, I differ with him on this.

The second thing is, Madam, that one of such projects is being implemented just about 2 kilometres away from my house, from the district headquarters, that is, the Bhowanipatna District Block. It is being implemented through the Department of Soil Conservation and the Department of Horticulture. The area, which they have chosen, is classified as *patra* forest. I don't know what it is known in this area. 'Patra' means something like village forest. This patra forest is adjacent to a sanctuary area and this vast stretch of patra forest acts as a buffer forest for the protection of the sanctuary area. Therefore, why was it created? Now, what are they doing there under this wasteland development project? They are eliminating the natural species of that area and they are planting the so-called genetically manipulated plants and totally destroying the ecosystem of that area. What I mean to say is that the Government money is

utilised to destroy the land of that area, the ecology of that area. This was protested by the DFO. He is also an agent. He protested against that. He registered as many as 20 forest cases. They are still under investigation. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this. I posed this problem in many places. I would like to know whether he will take up this matter personally.

SHRI M A. BABY: Madam, is it the intention of the Member to take the longest time in putting supplementaries?

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी : इस पर हाफ-एन आवर डिसकशन करा दीजिये ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer this question.

SHRI M. A. BABY : Madam, he wants to ask with prospective effect. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Madam, my specific question is this. The amount spent so far has already been audited by the Chartered Accountant. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will go in for a specimen audit by the Auditor General on the audit version of the statement. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take necessary steps to book the criminals who are responsible for the extinction of the natural species of the area.

COL. RAM SINGH: Madam, the hon. Member is quite right in saying that when Kalahandi was allotted two projects, it was bifurcated and a new district, Nowapada, was created there. As for the hon. Member's assumption that the National Wasteland Development Board selects the area where the project has to be implemented, I am afraid, that is quite incorrect. It is the district authority, the DRDA or the concerned State Government... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish.

COL. RAM SINGH: It is the DRDA, the Deputy Commissioner or the State Government who forwards the project to us. The Department examines the feasibility of the project. Whenever there are any doubts, instead of corresponding for months and months, I normally call the Deputy Commissioner of the district and thrash out whatever shortcomings there are in the project and then the project is sanctioned. The project is selected by the district. The implementation is done by the district. The National Wasteland Development Board comes into the picture only at the time of provision of funds. The execution is done by the district authorities. If there is any clash, as the hon. Member is saying, between the DFO and the district authorities, it is up to the State Government to sort it out. Madam, if I can be of any help, I am always at the disposal of the hon. Member. He can come to me. Whatever action he wants me to take, I will certainly do that. The other point he raised was that he was not informed about the particular area of Kalahandi where the project was sanctioned. Madam, I have made it a firm practice that whenever my Department sanctions any project, I send a copy of the sanction letter to the concerned Member of Parliament. Perhaps, he being a Rajya Sabha Member, I might have or my Department might have or my Department might have slipped on that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Why-?

COL. RAM SINGH: Madam, I sent a copy of the sanction letter to the Member of Parliament representing that area. In future I will make it a practice that whenever any project is sanctioned in the State, I will send its copies to the Members of Rajya Sabha also.